

A SCIENTIST just like me



Dr Raquel Prado
Renewable Materials Engineer

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Hi there! I am Dr Raquel Prado – A renewable materials engineer

Where do I work?

I work for a company that transforms pineapple leaf fibres into a textile material. I work with farmers and communities to have a better future.



What did I like doing when I was at school?

I liked to play mixing liquids to see what happened and playing with computers (mobile phones did not exist then).

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I like reading fantasy and historical fiction books. I like music - I play piano and love dancing and singing along.

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What do I do as a renewable materials engineer?



I help to reduce the environmental impact of the process of transforming pineapple leaf fibres into fabric. Then I also help to improve the properties of the fabric.

How does what I do make the world a better place?

We create new materials from waste products that would otherwise be buried or burnt, so we help to decrease the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We also help farmers to have a better job conditions and help their families to have a better future.

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What I like about my job

I like that each day can be different and that what I do has a positive impact on the environment. My job also gives me the opportunity to meet wonderful people and to apply my knowledge of science.



Challenges I have faced

It has been a long journey to reach to where I am. I needed to focus on the target and climb one step at a time. Moving abroad and living far from my family was not easy at the beginning. But I have made lots of friends on the way.

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If you want to be a renewable materials engineer, you need:

- ✱ to **love science** and discovering new ideas and solutions
- ✱ to **care about the environment**
- ✱ to **be positive and curious**, don't be afraid of asking questions - it is a good way of learning new, exciting things
- ✱ to **like working with others** in a team and listen to other people's opinions



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a renewable materials engineer like Dr Raquel Prado?

Why? Why not?

- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a renewable materials engineer?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



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Free supporting resources for materials engineering

I bet you didn't know... articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- Bamboo could be used to make cricket bats
- Why face mask you should wear
- Toilets in the future may charge your mobile phone
- How to clean water using a molecular sieve

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